

REMARKS

Claims 1-29 were originally pending in the application. Claims 1-4, 7-15, and 18-21 have been allowed. Claims 22, 23, 26, and 29 are rejected. Claims 24 and 25 are objected to. Claims 5, 6, 16, 17, 27, and 28 were provisionally withdrawn with traverse. Provisionally withdrawn claims 5-6 and 16-17 were reinstated and allowed.

Claims 22 and 25 have been amended. Claim 24 has been cancelled. Claims 1-23 and 25-19 are now pending in the application.

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested in light of the claim amendments and the following remarks.

I. Telephone Conference With Examiner

Applicant appreciates Examiner Bui's time and courtesy in discussing the outstanding Office Action with Applicant on February 2, 2005. In particular, Applicant and the Examiner agreed that those provisionally withdrawn claims depending from an allowable generic claim have been reinstated into the application. Independent claims 1 and 11 have been allowed. Accordingly, dependent claims 5-6 and 16-17 should be reinstated in the application.

II. Submission of Formal Drawings

Applicant submits herewith formal drawing sheets 1-7 bearing Figs. 1-12. Entry of these formal drawings into the record is respectfully requested.

III. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claim 29 is rejected under 35 USC 112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. In particular, in claim 29, the phrase "said cover" is said to lack antecedent basis. Claim 22, as amended, recites a cover, thereby providing proper antecedent basis for the claim 29 limitations.

IV. Claim rejections under 35 USC 102

Claims 22, 23, and 29 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Pope. Claims 22, 23, and 26 are rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by each of Zaborney and Merboth.

Claim 22 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of dependent claim 24, which has been identified in the Office Action as containing allowable subject matter. (Claim 24 has been cancelled, and claim 25 has been amended for the purposes of proper claim dependency.) Applicant therefore asserts that claim 22 overcomes the prior art as amended, and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 22 (and corresponding dependent claims 23 and 25-29) under 35 USC 102(b) is respectfully requested.

V. Reinstatement of Claims 27-28

Claims 27 and 28 each depend from claim 22, and recite that the air access is formed by “dimples formed in a top wall of said platform” and “holes formed through a top wall of said platform” respectively. Claims 27-28 recite limitations analogous to those of claims 5-6 that depend from claim 1, and claims 16-17 that depend from claim 11. Claims 5-6 and 16-17 were originally restricted. However, because claims 1 and 11 are generic with respect to claims 5-6 and 16-17, respectively, claims 5-6 and 16-17 were reinstated and allowed upon allowance of claims 1 and 11.

By the same rationale, Applicant asserts that independent claim 22 is generic to claims 27 and 28. Because amended claim 22 is allowable, Applicant requests that claims 27 and 28 be reinstated and allowed.

VI. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes with appreciation that claims 1-4, 7-15, and 18-21 have been allowed.

VII. Conclusion

Applicant therefore respectfully asserts that all rejections and objections cited by the Examiner have been overcome. Accordingly, the application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

While no fees are believed to be due for the filing of this communication, Applicant hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any fees that are deemed due arising from this or any other communication, to deposit account No. 17-0055. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number appearing below if such would advance the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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